
From: HJR153
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 9:02 AM
To: HJR153
Subject: HJR153 - C. Robert Stripling

Name: C. Robert Stripling
Street: P O Box 58
City, State, Zip: Staunton, VA 24402
Phone Number: 540-332-3812
Email: striplingcr@ci.staunton.va.us
Utility Type: all

Company Name: Electric, telephone, cable companies

Comments: In regard to the position of the City of Staunton with respect for placing the above ground wired utilities below ground, it seems to be advantageous for this to be pursued. Factors that favor this proposition and benefits from such action include:

1. Reduced damage and costs to restore services during wind, ice and other severe storms.
2. Reduced economic losses during such storms due to business and residential loss of power.
3. Reduced safety risks associated with downed utility lines.
4. Greater safety in ROWs with fewer poles as obstacles to be struck and fewer barriers to proper sight lines.
5. Fewer obstacles on sidewalks, thus allowing better and safer use of the sidewalks for wheelchairs, walkers and people with child strollers.
6. Reduced staff time spent following up with utility companies regarding sidewalk damage as a result of pole replacement.
7. Greater ability to plant and maintain healthy shade trees along street ROWs and in lawns.
8. Improved aesthetics due to lack of poles and wires and no weeds growing in the cracks next to poles.

Disadvantages are the cost, potential for increased conflicts during excavations and perhaps some additional costs for street lighting poles or fixtures.

Recommendation of priority areas for placement of utilities underground include:

1. Urban areas.
2. Areas that rely on the tourism economy and visual resources.
3. Historic areas.

The best means of accomplishing this objective would be a small increase statewide on all utility bills and an incremental phase-in over 20+ years.